

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSC-01 SAJ-01 EB-07 AID-05 STR-04

/097 W

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R 091705Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8583

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 12086

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PDIP BE CB

SUBJ: BELGIUM RESUMES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH KAMPUCHEA

1. SUMMARY: BELGIUM WILL RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS  
WITH KAMPUCHEA (CAMBODIA) DECEMBER 10. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR  
IN PEKING WILL EVENTUALLY BE ACCREDITED TO PHNOM PENH.  
END SUMMARY.

2. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR OF FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS  
(STEYAERT) TOLD US THAT BELGIUM AND KAMPUCHEA WILL JOINTLY  
ANNOUNCE THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH  
A JOINT COMMUNIQUE DECEMBER 10. STEYAERT GAVE US THE  
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BACKGROUND ON THIS DEVELOPMENT:

A. AFTER CHANGE OF REGIME LAST YEAR, BELGIAN EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR, WHICH HAD BEEN ACCREDITED TO CAMBODIA, SENT MESSAGE TO NEW GOVERNMENT SAYING BELGIANS READY TO "CONTINUE " RELATIONS. (UNDER BELGIAN LAW AND PRACTICE, BELGIUM RECOGNIZES A PEOPLE, NOT A STATE GOVERNMENT. HENCE, THERE IS NEVER NEED TO RECOGNIZE COUNTRY AFTER CHANGE OF REGIME, ONLY AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE OR RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.) BELGIUM RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO INITIATIVE.

B. DURING LAST YEAR, BELGIAN AND CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATS MAINTAINED INFORMAL CONTACTS IN PEKING AND BUCHAREST, AND BELGIANS REPEATED THEIR READINESS TO CONTINUE RELATIONS. WHEN STILL NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING, BELGIANS TOLD CAMBODIANS THEY WOULD NO LONGER TAKE INITIATIVE. IN OCTOBER, CAMBODIAN AMBASSADOR IN BUCHAREST TOLD BELGIAN AMBASSADOR THAT BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IN PEKING, NOT KUALA LUMPUR, SHOULD BE THE ONE ACCREDITED TO PHNOM PENH. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEWED THIS AS "FEELER" AND CONTACTS WERE STEPPED UP IN PEKING.

C. IN NOVEMBER, KAMPUCHEA "AMBASSADOR IN PEKING RESPONDED TO BELGIAN INITIATIVES AND ACCEDED TO RESUMPTION OR RELATIONS.

3. SINCE THEN, STEYAERT SAID TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN "BICKERING" ABOUT TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE. BELGIUM FINALLY GAVE IN AND ALLOWED "ESTABLISH" RELATIONS" RATHER THAN RE-ESTABLISH OR RESUME. EVENTUALLY, BELGIUM WILL ASK FOR AGREEMENT FOR THEIR AMBASSADOR IN PEKING TO BE ACCREDITED TO KAMPUCHEA. STEYAERT CHARACTERIZED INTERNAL SITUATION IN KAMPUCHEA AS "VERY GRIM" AND THINKS PRESENT REGIME MAY WANT TO "OPEN UP" SOMEWHAT MORE. HE EXPECTS EVENTUAL KAMPUCHEAN REQUESTS FOR TRADE AND AID.

4. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE:  
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BEGIN TEXT: WISHING TO DEVELOP RELATIONS BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM AND DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA ON THE BASIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, THE GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM HAVE DECIDED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL STARTING DECEMBER 10, 1976. THE TWO GOVERNMENTS

EXPRESS THE FIRM HOPE AND THE CONVICTION THAT  
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES DEVELOP IN  
A FAVORABLE MANNER. END TEXT.FIRESTONE

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